



DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A California State Agency

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Date: April 18, 2011

Chair
Phil Isenberg

To: Delta Stewardship Council Members

Members
Randy Fiorini
Gloria Gray
Patrick Johnston
Hank Nordhoff
Don Nottoli
Felicia Marcus

From: Joe Grindstaff, Executive Officer

Subject: Meeting, April 28-29, 2011

Executive Officer
P. Joseph Grindstaff

The agenda for our fourteenth meeting, and supporting material, is attached. Some additional handouts may be provided at the meeting. I offer some brief comments on the agenda and materials here for your perusal.

The key part of Thursday's agenda, and overlapping into Friday, will be an in-depth discussion on the development of the Delta Plan. The third staff draft of the Plan will be made public on April 22, 2011. Its release is expected to generate considerable input from the public. A careful review of this draft by the public and the Council is vital. Other items on Thursday include the executive officer's report and an update on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), which has transitioned from holding regular steering committee meetings to focusing on the completion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process.

As you will recall, the third staff draft Delta Plan will be released this Friday, April 22 (ahead of the April 28-29 meeting), and the fourth staff draft Delta Plan will be released in mid-May (ahead of the May 26-27 meeting). In order to meet the timeline approved by the Council, the members, at their May 26-27 meeting, must direct staff to make appropriate revisions to the fourth staff draft Plan, and then release the revised version of the Plan, along with the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA.

Significant parts of Friday's agenda include reports from both the DSC Lead Scientist and the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB). Lead scientist Dr. Cliff Dahm offers updates on Delta Science Fellowships, the on-line journal, and a recent workshop on salmonid life cycle models. The Delta ISB report will include a review of Chapter 2 in the second staff draft of the Delta Plan.

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) Update (Agenda Item 6)

On Thursday, April 28, Karla Nemeth, Natural Resources Agency Program Manager for BDCP, will provide a similar update for the Council on the new process of completing the BDCP and will also discuss the development of alternatives for a water conveyance in the Delta. Greg Gartrell, Assistant General Manager from Contra Costa Water District will also report on alternatives that should be considered and what that means for the Delta.

"Coequal goals" means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

– CA Water Code §85054

Finally, the Council will hear from its independent consultant, Arcadis, regarding a workplan to engage in the new BDCP process.

Delta Plan Development (Agenda Items 7 and 13)

The third staff draft of the Delta Plan will be posted on the DSC website on Friday, April 22, 2011. This third draft is designed to put key draft regulations, recommendations, and performance measures on the table for the Council to discuss and receive input from stakeholders and the public. Following the Council meeting, revisions will be made. One more preliminary staff draft of the Delta Plan will be released in May, 2011. Then an official, public review draft Delta Plan and a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be released in June, 2011 as part of the formal public review process. It is anticipated that subsequent drafts of the Delta Plan may be necessary to respond to public comments, leading up to adoption of the final EIR and Delta Plan at the November meeting (in time to meet subsequent state regulatory requirements, and ultimately the January 1, 2012 statutory mandate).

Lead Scientist's Report (Agenda Item 11)

Lead scientist Dr. Cliff Dahm will cover three items in his report. One will be the approval of the 2011 class of Delta Science Fellows, which represents the sixth year of fellowships awarded by the Delta Science Program (DSP) in conjunction with California Sea Grant. Second will be an update on the DSP-supported on-line journal, *San Francisco Estuary and Watershed Science*. The latest issue features five articles including a pair of papers that provide a formal scientific debate on Delta smelt loss estimates. And third will be a report on DSP's Salmonid Integrated Life Cycle Models Workshop held on April 13. The understanding of life cycle models are considered both a critical need for managing the recovery of fish species as well as providing a decision-making framework to inform water operations and prescribed actions for individual and multiple fish species.

Delta Independent Science Board Report (Agenda Item 12)

Dr. Jeffrey Mount (Delta ISB member) will represent Dr. Richard Norgaard, Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB). Dr. Mount will brief the Council on the Delta ISB's review of Chapter 2, "Science and Adaptive Management for a Changing Delta" of the second staff draft of the Delta Plan, discussed at the April 7-8 meeting. Dr. Mount will also brief the Council on the outcomes of the Delta ISB's April 25 teleconference meeting, including how the Board will approach their review of the third staff draft of the Delta Plan.

Our April meeting is once again being held within the legal boundaries of the Delta. It will be in the first floor Galleria of the West Sacramento City Hall. The address is 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento. If I can answer any questions or provide any information, please contact me at (916) 445-4500 or jgrindstaff@deltacouncil.ca.gov